

## Message from EMSIP Chief

Left to Right: Ian Santee, Sandy Apter of Hawaii Air Ambulance (HAA), Dr. Libby Char, Joel Kass (HAA), Tito Villanueva, Andrew Kluger (HAA), Gov. Cayetano, Mark Cunningham, Helen Yurong, Dr. Bruce Anderson, David Jackson, and Donna Maiava



CONGRATULATIONS to this year's Outstanding EMS Honorees! The awardees, recognized during the EMS Week 2002 proclamation ceremony at the governor's office, all personify this year's theme, **"Help is a heartbeat away."**

It is my personal pleasure to recognize these "top guns" of emergency care – persons who are considered the best by their peers and who continue to make a difference in the lives of their patients.

### Around the State

It is a privilege and an honor to be associated with so many dedicated individuals working in their communities toward preventing and reducing the incidence and impact of injury in Hawaii. During my tenure as chief of the State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System, the majority of our efforts have been in secondary and tertiary prevention, which often dealt with failed primary prevention. EMS and Injury Prevention are natural partners in keeping with the Core Functions of Public Health: **Assurance**, through motivation, involvement, and facilitation with broad community networks; **Assessment**, with the collection and analysis of EMS, Trauma Registry, and Hospital Discharge Data to better understand problems and evaluate interventions; and **Policy Development**, through the advocacy for tougher laws that protect the safety and welfare of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Let's keep injury prevention at the forefront of our efforts this summer, a time when the number of preventable injuries can skyrocket. Here's wishing you and yours a very safe and happy summer. Keep the air conditioners on!!

Mahalo and Aloha,



Donna Maiava, Chief  
Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention



## Resource Board

In each newsletter, injury prevention resources will be featured. If you have a favorite of your own that you would like to share with your colleagues, we would love to hear from you. Here are the picks for this edition:

### Publications

The Keiki Injury Prevention Action Plan 2002, "Protecting Our Children: Strategies for Injury Prevention," is a roadmap to identify injury trends and prevent childhood injuries in Hawaii (see "KIPC Korner" story). Included in the Action Plan are some personal accounts of Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii (KIPC) members who were inspired to become advocates for injury prevention. They tell in human terms the toll that injury can take in loss of life or permanent disability, as well as the triumph of life-saving injury prevention measures.

KIPC, the Department of Health's Injury Prevention and Control Program, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, and other partners invite you to join the efforts. For a copy of the Action Plan, call the Injury Prevention and Control Program at 586-5940.

### Childhood Injury Prevention Links

**SafetyLit.org** is the website of the Injury Prevention Resource Library at San Diego State University

*Continued on next column.*

(SDSU). The Library serves several programs, including the Center for Childhood Injury, at the SDSU Graduate School of Public Health. Although not a circulating library, SafetyLit.org serves as a resource for anyone interested in injury prevention.

SafetyLit staff and volunteers regularly examine more than 100 journals and scores of reports from government agencies and organizations and provide abstracts on this website. National, regional, and state injury data is also available, as well as information about injury prevention conferences and links to other useful websites.

SafetyLit also provides weekly injury literature updates. Visitors to the website can sign up to receive email notices that an update is available. Log on at <http://www.SafetyLit.org>

Hear ye, hear ye – the Keiki Injury Prevention Action Plan 2002 is finally out!

Make sure you have a copy of “Protecting Our Children: Strategies for Injury Prevention” to help guide you in your critical work towards the prevention of childhood injuries.

The Action Plan provides the latest data and strategies for eight focus areas of injury prevention: Motor Vehicle Occupant Protection for Children and Youth, Drowning Prevention, Pedestrian, Bike, and Skating Safety, Youth Suicide Prevention, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, Youth Violence Prevention, and Playground and Sports Safety.

To promote a comprehensive approach for the prevention of injuries to children and youth, the Spectrum of Prevention\* is used as a framework. The Spectrum defines the unique contributions that individuals, agencies and community groups can make toward shaping a safe environment for children whether they are on the road, at home or at play. Coalition and community members can use the Action Plan as a way of:

- Assessing how their own efforts contribute to the prevention of injuries
- Identifying other prevention strategies they can participate in
- Identifying others involved in efforts with whom they can partner
- Determining how these strategies are synergistic with broader health promotion efforts

By working together, coalition members, including agencies, EMS and other providers, and community members, can work on several levels of prevention at the same time and develop a multi-faceted approach to addressing any injury prevention issue.

Let us know how you are using the Action Plan to support your injury prevention efforts and if you're interested in participating in any of the Injury Focus Groups that will help shape the future direction of prevention efforts for our children and youth. Contact Therese Argoud, KIPC Coordinator, at 586-5940 or Lois Sugai at 587-5667.

\* Cohen, L and Swift, S. 1999. Spectrum of Prevention: Developing A Comprehensive Approach to Injury Prevention. Injury Prevention 5:0-4.

In Hawaii, drowning is the leading cause of injury deaths among 0-14 year olds, accounting for 16 % of all injury deaths and 22% of all unintentional injuries

During a three year period (1995-1998), there were 148 ambulance attended near drownings of children under 18 on Oahu alone

Every year, an average of 38 youths under 18 are hospitalized for near drownings statewide

One-third of drowning deaths occur in swimming pools and another third in the ocean

Data compiled by the Injury Prevention and Control Program, Department of Health, for the Keiki Injury Prevention Action Plan 2002, “Protecting Our Children: Strategies for Injury Prevention”

## Answering the Call News from Around the Islands...

**1** **AMR - Maui's Curt Morimoto** reports that May was a busy month for Child Passenger Safety (CPS) in Maui County. A four-day NHTSA training course was held for a class of 19 Maui Fire Recruits, culminating in a car seat check-up on the fourth day. Curt also reports that he completed his Instructor Candidate training with this recruit class and is now, in addition to being a CPS technician, a Certified CPS Instructor. No doubt he helped out at four other car seat check-ups held in Maui County, with one being on Lanai. Upcoming check-ups are scheduled, in collaboration with Safe Community of Maui, Inc., through August. Safe Community will also be conducting a pedestrian safety workshop in August in response to growing concerns in the Lahaina area.

**2** **Scotty Paiva** of the **Hawaii County Fire Department's EMS Division** reports that **FEO/MICT Ralph Yamada's** group of dedicated EMS personnel continued their efforts to bring CPR to the classroom through the end of the school year. In addition to the 600 high schoolers who participated through March, 580 more students rounded out the effort in May. Scotty also reports participation at the HCFD EMS Health and Safety Expo and Fun Run, held in conjunction with EMS Week 2002. EMS personnel were able to educate the public, as well as have some fun, at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel and Coconut Island.

**3** **The City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division** made it official in May with the hiring of **Jimmy Barros** as their Injury Prevention Coordinator. Jimmy relays that on June 22, the Division conducted a Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Day at Sandy Beach. The prevention-minded event, co-sponsored by the Hawaii Chapter

of the Think First Foundation, the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, and the Pilots Club of Honolulu, was developed to educate and raise awareness of the many dangers that may cause debilitating brain and spinal cord injuries to thousands of people every year. EMS and Ocean Safety personnel also conducted C-Spine extrication and immobilization demonstrations.

**4** **Zach Octavio, AMR - Kauai** Manager reports that Medic 21 continues to average at least one car seat check-up per day and with the enforcement of the "Click It or Ticket" program, many parents, grandparents, and caregivers have stopped by to ensure their children are properly restrained. AMR - Kauai's CPS team also conducted a roadside check with the Kauai Police Department (KPD) and inspected 31 car seats. Zach also reports on collaborative CPS efforts on May 18 with **Moana Ta'a**, Kauai Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KKIPC) Coordinator, in support of Safe Keiki Day in Lihue. Personnel also participated in a bike safety clinic during the event. **Tom VanderWende** and **George Mones**, in partnership with KKIPC, KPD, KFD, and State Farm, participated in a bike rodeo at Hanalei School in June. With several clinics already in the planning stage, bike safety is yet another emphasis targeted by AMR - Kauai.

**5** Thanks go out to **AMR - Oahu's Todd Bardoni, EMT** for working in collaboration with HMSA, the Department of Health's Injury Prevention and Control Program, the Hawaii Bycycling League, and HPD's Bike Unit at two bike safety rallies held over consecutive weekends in May. AMR, Hawaii Operations have been instrumental in providing help for these safety events for the past year.



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“We’re just doing our job” is what you might hear from Ian Santee and Tito Villanueva, this year’s Outstanding MICT and Outstanding EMT. But when that job deals with life and death, it’s reassuring that two such distinguished individuals answer the call.

Yes, both Santee, of the City & County’s Metro One Unit, and Villanueva, of AMR - Kauai’s Medic 21 Unit, are dedicated professionals who bring energy, enthusiasm, and the kind of advocacy for a quality EMS system that propels them to excel at their jobs. They also share another common trait - an interest and passion for the prevention of needless injuries to children.

With additional training in Dispatch and Staffing, and as a member of the Metropolitan Medical Strike Team and Mobile Environmental Lab Unit, Santee is already a well-rounded paramedic. However, he is not content on stopping there. He is the driving force behind the EMS Explorers Program, for which he was recently awarded an EMSC mini-grant.

“The EMS Explorers Program will introduce teens to the core concepts of injury prevention and how they can be incorporated not only in the community-at-large, but into daily EMS responsibilities,” said Santee. “And this includes taking care of one’s mind as well,” he stressed. Santee relates that as a paramedic, he has learned that education is key in preventing injuries. “On the job, I witness so many preventable injuries. The more we focus on prevention, the safer and

## Making Injury Prevention a Part of Their Day

more aware our communities will be. After all, preventing a problem is better than trying to correct it. It definitely is a quality of life issue.”

Villanueva, also busy with duties at Medic 21 and the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands, makes the extra time and effort to keep Kauai’s keiki safe. He is a certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician and an active participant at the numerous voluntary car seat check-ups coordinated by AMR - Kauai.

When asked about his dedication to injury prevention, Villanueva replied, “I got interested in CPS because I’m stationed at Medic 21 (a permanent car seat fitting station) and saw the work that the other technicians did.” For Villanueva, the issue hits close to home. “I have two small children of my own so the training I received also benefits my family.” And on the job, the efforts he and his fellow technicians make are evident. “When I respond to a motor vehicle crash and see kids with only minor injuries or no injuries at all because of the correct usage of child car seat restraints, that makes my work in CPS all the more gratifying,” said Villanueva.

To Ian Santee and Tito Villanueva, saving lives is all in a day’s work. When it comes to protecting Hawaii’s keiki, these dedicated professionals

have pledged to make their communities safer and embrace the role they play in doing so. Congratulations Ian and Tito, for going above and beyond, preventing one injury at a time, saving one life at a time. You are indeed OUTSTANDING!



Top. C&C Metro One’s Ian Santee surrounded by Governor Ben Cayetano and EMSIP Chief Donna Maiava. Bottom. AMR - Kauai’s Medic 21 Unit’s Tito Villanueva and Governor Cayetano. Ian and Tito are this year’s Outstanding MICT and Outstanding EMT, respectively.